

Appl. No. 09/982,562
Amdt dated December 18, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method for releasing a product under development, the method comprising:

storing in a computer memory a first association between a first version of a component of the product and a first time in future selected from a plurality of times that are to occur in future;

wherein each time in said plurality of times ~~is separated from~~ has a fixed relationship to another time in said plurality of times ~~by a common period~~;

wherein the first version is not to be released until the first time in future;

storing in said computer memory a second association between a second version of the component and a second time selected from said plurality of times;

subsequent to passage of at least one of said first time and said second time, identifying one of said versions as a release version, by using said associations from said computer memory and depending on whichever one of said first time and said second time occurred most recently in the past relative to current time; and

performing a build comprising at least said release version of said component.

2 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:

the release version is different from the second version if the second time is yet to occur.

3 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:

the release version is the first version if the first time occurred most recently in the past, from among said plurality of times.

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4 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
on passage of said first time, automatically storing in memory another association,
of said first version with a third time in future that is scheduled to occur immediately after
said first time, among the plurality of times.

5 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein the association is stored
in a record of a database.

6 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
storing an identity of a person responsible for development of each version.

7 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein the component
comprises software, the method further comprising:
storing an address of each version.

8 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein the component
comprises software, the method further comprising:
copying the software to a central location of storage of other components.

9 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
storing an identity of a bug that has been fixed in each version.

10 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
storing a label of the component used in a version control system.

11 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
storing an indicator of when the first version is associated with the first time.

12 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
storing for the first version an identity of a release of all components in which the
first version is to be included.

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13 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12 wherein:
the release is predetermined to occur subsequent to one of the plurality of times
selected to be a milestone time.

14 (previously presented): The method of Claim 13 wherein:
said first time is one of a group of times in said plurality, prior to said milestone time.

15 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving said first time and an identification of said first version via a graphical user
interface.

16 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
storing an association of a unique identifier with the first version.

17 (previously presented): The method of Claim 16 further comprising:
receiving the unique identifier from a person responsible for development of the first
version.

18 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of times comprises at least one time during each week.

19 (previously presented): The method of Claim 18 wherein:
each time in the plurality of times occurs on a predetermined day selected from a
group consisting of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

20 (previously presented): The method of Claim 18 wherein:
each time in the plurality of times occurs on Wednesday.

21 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:

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after the second time has occurred, said second version is identified as the release version.

22 (previously presented): The method of Claim 21 further comprising:
storing a third association of a first identifier with the first version; and
storing a fourth association of a second identifier with the second version.

23 (previously presented): The method of Claim 21 wherein:
said storing of second association is performed prior to said second time.

24 (previously presented): The method of Claim 21 wherein:
said storing of second association is performed subsequent to said second time
only as an exception.

Claims 25-27 (canceled).

28 (currently amended): A computer programmed to track each component of a
product under development, the computer comprising:

memory holding a first version of a component and a first time that is one of a
plurality of times that are to occur in future, at memory locations addressed by a data
structure;

wherein each time in said plurality of times ~~is separated from~~ has a fixed
relationship to another time in said plurality of times ~~by a common period;~~

first means for determining from current time, a second time that occurred most
recently in the past, from among the plurality of times; and

second means coupled to the first means to receive therefrom the second time and
coupled to the memory to receive therefrom data addressed by the data structure, the
second means identifying the first version as being available for release if the first time
matches the second time.

29 (previously presented): The computer programmed as in Claim 28 wherein:

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said memory also holds an identity of a person responsible for development of said first version, an address of the first version, an identity of a bug that has been fixed in the first version, a label of the component used in a version control system for the first version, an indicator of when the first version is associated with the first time, and an identity of a release of all components in which the first version is to be included.

30 (new): The method of Claim 1 wherein:

the fixed relationship is periodic and each time is separated from another time by a common period.

31 (new): The computer of Claim 28 wherein:

the fixed relationship is periodic and each time is separated from another time by a common period.

32 (new): A method for identifying release versions of a plurality of components of a product, the method comprising:

a plurality of first computers receiving from a plurality of persons at least: a name of a component in the plurality of components, a path of location of a version of said component, and a time in future selected in a graphical user interface from among a plurality of times that are to occur in future;

the first computers communicating to a second computer, information received through the graphical user interface;

the second computer storing in a database, for each version in said information an association between said each version and said time in future selected through the graphical user interface; and

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the second computer using said associations from said database and a time in said plurality of times that occurred most recently in the past relative to current time, to identify one version from among multiple versions of each component, as a release version.

33 (new): The method of Claim 32 further comprising:

subsequent to receipt of the information, the second computer using the path of said each version to copy said each version to a central repository.

34 (new): The method of Claim 33 further comprising:

forming the product by integrating copies, retrieved from the central repository, of each release version of each component identified by the second computer.

35 (new): The method of Claim 32 further comprising:

when current time becomes said time in future, the second computer automatically storing in the database, for any version associated with said time in future, another association with another time from among the plurality of times, wherein said another time is scheduled to occur immediately following said time in future.

36 (new): A method for identifying release versions of a plurality of components of a product, the method comprising:

a plurality of first computers receiving from a plurality of persons at least: a name of a component in the plurality of components, a path of location of a version of said component, and a time in future selected in a graphical user interface from among a plurality of times that are to occur in future;

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the first computers locally storing an association between each version identified through the graphical user interface and said time in future selected through the graphical user interface; and

a second computer using said associations and a time in said plurality of times that occurred most recently in the past relative to current time, to identify one version from among multiple versions of each component, as a release version.

37 (new): The method of Claim 36 further comprising:

the second computer using the path of said release version to copy said release version.

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